Manpower on fixed terms contracts

1799. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has plans to allow industrial units employing over 100 people to recruit manpower on fixed term contracts; and

(b) if so, the benefits of the proposed plan?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) Government have amended the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Central Rules, 1946 to include "Fixed Term Employment Workmen" in the Schedule of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 and Model Standing Orders annexed to the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Central Rules, 1946. By this amendment, a fixed term employment workman will be engaged on the basis of contract of employment for a fixed period. However, his working hours, wages, allowances and other benefits will not be less than that of a permanent workman. He will also be eligible for all statutory benefits available to a permanent workman proportionately according to the period of service rendered by him even though his period of employment does not extend to the qualifying period of employment.

CESS on petroleum products

1800. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to levy 10 per cent cess on petroleum products to mop up funds for the unorganised sector workers' welfare fund launched, recently;

(b) if so, the amount likely to be mopped up togetherwith the details of the welfare measures to be carried out;

(c) whether Government also propose to levy cess on petroleum products to mobilise funds for building up a strategic storage facility for petro-products in the country;

(d) whether such levies would ultimately trigger a cascading effect thereby making essential commodities dearer because of transportation cost involved?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) A proposal to enact a comprehensive legislation for unorganised workers and raising of funds required to meet the Government's contribution towards the cost of certain social security schemes for such workers is under active consideration of the Government.

(c) No decision on building up of strategic storage facility has been taken yet.

(d) Petroleum products are universal intermediates and any increase in their prices affect the other sectors of the economy.

National Commission on Labour

† 1801. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a National Commission on Labour during the year, 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said Commission would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Loan to institutions from EPF

†1802. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that loan is given to other institutions from Employees Provident Fund;

(b) if so, whether any policy have been formulated in this regard;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.